

## Diary Dates

### Coming Up . . .

- Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>–Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September **Kawakawa service camp** (2<sup>nd</sup> wave)
- Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September **Scholastics** book orders due
- Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September **dental van** here
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September **6-9 Zealandia Trip**
- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September **STAFF ONLY DAY. PRESCHOOL, PRIMARY AND HIGH SCHOOL CLOSED**
- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September **board/council meeting** Tawhai class 7.30pm
- Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September **dental van** here
- Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September **Kawakawa parent/teacher/student conferences** 3.40pm–5pm
- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September **Kawakawa parent/teacher/student conferences** 12noon–7.30pm
- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September **peace day**
- Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> **PTA quiz night** and auction 7pm at the high school

### Staff only day

**TEACHER ONLY DAY**  
**MONDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER**

Just a reminder that Wā Ora preschool, primary and high schools will be closed next Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September for a staff professional development day. School will be re-open as normal the day after on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September.

### Kawakawa parent teacher interviews

These will be held next Wednesday and Thursday. The booking email will be coming out shortly. Please note there are NO classes for Kawakawa students from 12 noon on Thursday as interviews run throughout the afternoon.

## This Week

### The internet as a learning tool

By Jason Johnson – Kawakawa Teacher – High School

In July this year, I had the distinct privilege of attending the Orientation to Adolescent Studies at Hershey Montessori School, in Ohio, USA. One of the discussions that came up in several different contexts, and which feels particularly relevant at the moment, was the role the Internet plays in the adolescent Montessori learning environment. Should we regard the internet as a tool, much like any other that we are helping adolescents learn to use?

Since I categorise the internet as a tool, I am drawn to make comparisons with the tools we use for woodworking. In the hard technology workshop, we identify tools that are appropriate for students to learn to use, such as the belt sander and others that have inherent risks so great, that we can't justify making them available to students yet, like the table saw. It may be appropriate for students to assist a teacher working with the table saw, to observe how it is used, but not to have access to it themselves.

Also, generally the tools that we use in the workshop have a built-in "control of error", that is to say, in their very function, they focus our attention to the job at hand and let us know if we have used them correctly or not. A student can see pretty quickly if they have sanded a piece of wood properly, or if they have gone too far. The internet doesn't really function in this way. When students pull up search results on Google, for example, it can be much harder to know if they have really found what they need.

In her book *From Childhood to Adolescence*, Maria Montessori identifies, 'two needs of the adolescent: protection during the time of the difficult physical transition, and an understanding of the society which they are about to enter to play their part as an adult.'

As educators and as parents, it is our responsibility to balance these needs. Through the internet, students have access to a much wider spectrum of humanity than they have ever had before. They can communicate with people all over the world, and learn from experts practising in every field of human endeavour. However, much (perhaps even the majority) of the content adolescents have access to on the internet, reflects a distorted view of society, dominated by advertising and inappropriate adult content.

So as we prepare an educational environment for our students, we have to consider how tools like the internet should be used and whether or not they can even be considered appropriate for our environment.

Either way, it falls to us to help ākonga learn how to evaluate the information that they find. Undoubtedly, the internet is one of the most powerful tools we have ever had access to, but as the old adage goes - with great power comes great responsibility.



*Jason teaches in Kawakawa, working across all the subjects – humanities, occupations, English, mathematics, advisory time, and more! He taught English, science and philosophy in secondary schools for about 12 years, and has completed his Montessori adolescent training earlier this year. Jason is a self-confessed geek and musician, and in his personal time he's usually doing something in that world – practicing, performing or recording and tinkering with computers.*

**Sport****Wā Ora basketball results**

Tiniball (year 3-4) vs Koraunui, 14-10

Miniball (year 5-6) vs Eastern Hutt, 4-16

**Wā Ora indoor netball results**

Wā Ora Fast but not Furious vs Rangers, 25-20.

**Netball**

Miromiro played in the Horizons tournament in Palmerston North on Sunday and placed 4<sup>th</sup>. Big thanks goes to Kate Harray for organising this opportunity for the team!



Toutouwai attended the HVNA prize giving on Saturday and had this photo opportunity with former Ferns goal shooter Irene van Dyk!

**Congratulations**

Several Wā Ora high school students have been away last week at the National Secondary Schools Tournament Week around the country. A big effort from Nea, Cecily H and Kaitlyn B (football), Fiann (hockey), Stella (netball) and Samara (weightlifting)☺.

**Request for garden tools, gloves and gumboots**

Now that primary has its new garden shed built, they would like to build up a supply of garden essentials. If you can help with donations of garden tools, gloves or gumboots, please drop off to Carol in Tawhai class. All gratefully received☺.

**Scholastics**

Brochures went home last week and online orders are due in by this Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> September. Wā Ora earns free books for its library, when parents purchase books for their children through Scholastics.

**Preschool Gate**

Please ensure when opening the preschool gate, you do not inadvertently let any other child out at the same time, unless they have their parent/caregiver with them. Thank you for your vigilance.

**New parent get-together**

If you are new to Wā Ora and have recently received your invitation to our New Parent Get-together event, remember to RSVP to the school office by this Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> September. We're looking forward to seeing you there☺

**The Great Wā Ora Quiz Night & Auction**

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**



Tickets are on sale (through [eventfinda](#) and at the school office) so with only two weeks till show time, there's no time to lose! Get your friends together for a table of 10 or buy your own ticket and let the PTA hook you up with a table on the night. Whether you're competitive or just enjoy a laugh, it'll be a night to remember. Don't forget there'll also be a chance to win some amazing prizes with our auction. With your help we can achieve our fundraising target!

**Peace Day – Next Week**

Our community will celebrate Peace Day next Friday. Whānau are warmly invited to share a breakfast of toast and spreads together on the preschool deck from 8am, before we move over to the primary courts at 8.50am to sing peace songs, light the peace candle and listen to some words about peace. We look forward to having you share this event with us.

**Parent Education Evening**

*The view from the 3<sup>rd</sup> plane*



Unfortunately, there were insufficient RSVPs to hold this event last week, which was a real shame. We plan to reschedule this for term one of next year, when hopefully we will avoid bad weather and winter bugs, which made attendance difficult for many people.

Our parent education evenings always require attendees to RSVP, as we base the evening around these numbers, so please **always remember to RSVP** to the office if you plan to attend.

**Preschool Holiday Programme**

We are now taking bookings for the October preschool holiday programme. The cost is \$175 per week for 9am– 3pm. After school care will be available from 3pm–5pm for the first week only at the normal term charges. As we don't take casual day bookings, you will need to book and pay for a whole week, even if you don't use it all. This allows us to maintain appropriate kaiako/tamariki ratios. Lunch is to be provided by your family in line with our food procedure but we will supply morning tea. The fee will need to be paid in advance. Please email [anna@waora.school.nz](mailto:anna@waora.school.nz) to confirm your interest.

**PTA Clothing Bin**

The clothing bin at the front of the staff carpark is useful for disposing of your old clothes/rags that are no longer of use. If you have any of these items lying around the

house, please drop them into our bin so that Wā Ora can benefit. The proceeds raised from this go to the PTA, who then use this money to help fund projects around the school.